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Canadian Honey Council

#218 51519 R.R. 220

Sherwood Park, AB T8E 1H1

chc-ccm@honeycouncil.ca

www.honeycouncil.ca

(877) 356 8935

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## 2015 Directors • Canadian Honey Council / Conseil Canadien de Miel

**Director**

**Stan Reist**

BC Honey Producers Association  
6124 Metral Drive  
Nanaimo BC V9T 2L6  
ph. 250-390-2313  
flydutch@telus.net

**Director**

**Kevin Nixon**

Alberta Beekeepers  
Box 28, Site 8, RR4  
Innisfail, AB T4G 1T9  
ph. 403-227-0092  
Email: kevin@nixonhoney.ca

**Director**

**Bryan Ash**

Manitoba Beekeepers Association  
Ash Apiaries  
Box 297  
Gilbert Plains, MB R0L 0X0  
ph. 204-548-2036 fax 204-548-2122  
Email: flash@mymts.net

**Director**

**Scott Plante**

Federation des Apiculteurs du Québec  
2369 chemin Lambert  
St-Nicolas, PQ G7A 2N4  
ph. 418-531-0786  
scott.plante@bell.net

**Director**

**Calvin Parsons**

Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association  
Box 44  
Meskanan, SK S0K 2W0  
ph. 306-864-2632  
parsonsfamily@sasktel.net

**Director**

**Bernie Rousseau**

BeeMaid Honey  
13407 – 136 Ave. NW  
Edmonton, AB T5L 4B4  
ph. 780-454-1391  
cell 780-907-6777  
Bernie@beemaid.com

**Director**

**Grant Hicks**

Box 181  
McLennan, AB T0H 2L0  
ph. 780-324-3688  
Email: grhicks77@gmail.com

**Director**

**Paul Vautour**

Maritime Beekeepers Association  
Acadien Apiaries Ltd.  
488 Cape Breton Road  
Saint-Philippe, NB E1H 1W2  
ph. 506-388-5127  
paulination@rogers.com

**Director**

**Jim Coneybeare**

Coneybeare Honey  
215 Forfar Street  
Fergus, ON N1M 1B4  
ph. 519-843-7328  
cell 519-546-2829  
Email: ConeybeareHoney@aol.com

**CHC OFFICE**

**Executive Director**

**Rod Scarlett**

#218 51519 R.R. 220  
Sherwood Park, AB T8E 1H1  
ph. 877-356-8935  
cell 780-498-0231  
chc-ccm@honeycouncil.ca

**Hivelights Magazine Editorial and Advertising**

**Geoff Todd** ph. 403-512-2123 geoff@honeycouncil.ca

<b>Field Editor</b> .....	Doug McRory
<b>Design and Production</b> .....	Cristian Campean
<b>Advertising enquiries</b> .....	Geoff Todd
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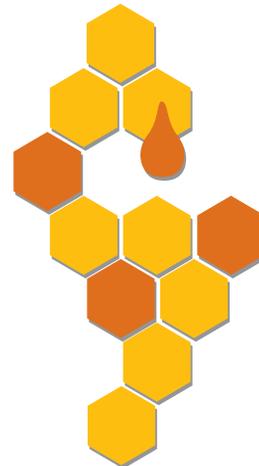


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# Canadian Honey Council Report



*Rod Scarlett, Executive Director, CHC*



**T**he last quarter of 2014 was, to say the very least, interesting. The formalization of a National Bee Health Roundtable with Susie Miller (AAFC Director General) and myself as Co-chairs has meant a significant amount of time dedicated to ensuring the strategic objectives of the Roundtable are being addressed. In a nutshell, those objectives are:

- **Mitigate losses from pests, pathogens, pesticides, and other causes; strengthen bee health; and increase bee populations in Canada**
- **Apiculture is a valued and recognized component of agriculture**
- **Apiculture is a progressive and innovative industry in Canada and for the apicultural industry to be sufficiently robust to meet the pollination needs of other agricultural commodities.**
- **To ensure industry expertise and secure consumer confidence.**
- **To build trust and understanding among all stakeholders.**

Bee Health continues to be a primary concern for the Canadian Honey Council and in late December, we were extremely fortunate to collaborate with the Canadian Seed Trade Association in announcing a major pesticide load reduction strategy for Canada. This reduction strategy is a profoundly important step, and was met with some disparaging comments from certain factions of the beekeeping sector; I suppose with the misguided belief that this was all the CHC was planning to do, which could not be farther from the truth. We have been extremely clear with all those we have worked with, that an integrated pest management strategy both within the hive and within the cropping sector is the end goal, and we will continue to work co-operatively to achieve that goal.

As I look towards the New Year there are a number of challenges that will need to be addressed. A satisfactory solution to the issues

involved with the Temporary Foreign Worker Program are paramount. Export honey issues continue to arise as we continue to work to access additional markets. At the same time close scrutiny of honey imports will have to occur. The work of the National Bee Health Roundtable will have national implications and benefits for beekeepers. The promotion and adoption of Bee-Biosecurity and the Canadian Bee Industry Safety Quality Traceability Program (CBISQT) will be emphasized by the CHC. Changes in the CFIA and in particular, the adoption of the Safe Food for Canadians Act, will mean a significant amount of consultation with our industry and our partners. Administratively, we will have to begin work on adapting our new by-laws to both our policies and to what the Board believes should be individualized to our association. A new Pollination committee will scope out work and new directions for the CHC.

One of the most exciting new initiatives will be led by Pierre Giovenazzo, who along with a planning team and the Palais des Congres de Montreal will be putting together a bid to host Apimondia 2019. Right now, we know we will be competing against Minneapolis, but there may be other bids coming forward. Ultimately, we will be asking for all of you to support us in our quest to host the greatest conference ever.

I want to finally thank Gerry McKee whose term as Chair of the CHC ends in late January. No one really knows how much time and energy Gerry put into the job as a volunteer, but I know he was always available for advice, guidance, and wisdom. He genuinely cared for the wellbeing of the national organization and understood that regional differences can occur, but you have to work at finding common ground even if that common ground seems unattainable. Gerry chaired meetings with patience and a calm civility and as his term ends, I am proud to count Gerry, as not only as someone who I can continue to ask questions, but as a friend. ■

# A National Bee Health Action Plan

*Submitted by Rod Scarlett Executive Director Canadian Honey Council*

**T**ODAY - Ottawa - A National Bee Health Action Plan to address factors impacting bee health in Canada and improve the health and populations of bees was endorsed by the members of the newly formed National Roundtable on Bee Health in early October 2014.

At a meeting in October, individuals from across Canada met to determine a National plan to address bee health in Canada and agreed to formalize their efforts under an Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Roundtable.

“The establishment of a National Bee Health Roundtable provides the forum to achieve results on a National Bee Health Action plan,” said Rod Scarlett, Co-Chair of the National Bee Health Roundtable & Executive Director, Honey Council of Canada.

“The National Bee Health Action Plan has aggressive targets that cover a broad spectrum of issues facing honey bees and a particular priority will be place on two areas: 1) Varroa Mite control and 2) Promoting ways to reduce pesticide exposure in and outside the hive.” The National Bee Health Plan’s goal is to identify priority issues, foster collaborative and innovative activities that help maintain a healthy honeybee population in Canada as well as support a competitive Canadian apicultural industry.

Canada’s National Bee Health Plan was initiated by attendees of the National Bee Health Workshop held in March 2014. Extensive work over the Summer to inventory current efforts underway to promote bee health and determine priority actions was conducted by a broad range of individuals and organizations representing beekeepers, scientists, grain farmers, members of the agriculture industry as well as provincial and the Federal government representatives.

In addition to the two priority areas, the Roundtable will investigate solutions in such fields as bee care and nutrition, pests and pathogens (diseases and viruses), environment and foraging surroundings, and growing agricultural needs.

At the October Bee Health Forum meeting, agreement was reached to transition from a forum to a formal roundtable.

## National Bee Health Action Plan

### **Vision:**

Bees in Canada are thriving, are an integral component of the agricultural sector, and a key contributor to a healthy environment.

### **Mission:**

To facilitate the continued growth of a healthy, innovative, and profitable apiculture sector in Canada.

### **Goal:**

To identify priority issues and foster collaborative and innovative activities that help maintain a healthy honeybee population in Canada and sup-

## Plan d’action national sur la santé des abeilles

### **Vision, mission et objectif:**

Les abeilles du Canada sont en bonne santé. Elles font partie intégrante du secteur agricole et jouent un rôle clé dans le maintien d’un environnement sain.

### **Énoncé de mission:**

Aider à maintenir la croissance d’un secteur apicole canadien vigoureux, novateur et rentable.

### **Énoncé de l’objectif:**

Définir les enjeux prioritaires et promouvoir des activités axées sur la collaboration et l’innovation qui contribuent au maintien d’une population

port a competitive Canadian apiculture industry.

### **Mandate of the Bee Health Roundtable:**

The mandate of the Bee Health Roundtable is to share information, educate, and work collaboratively on strategies to realize the goal of the Roundtable. This is facilitated by multi-stakeholder representatives from across the apiculture value chain, including beekeepers, professional apiculturists, agricultural producers, seed companies, government regulators, the crop protection industry, and agronomists.

### **Key Objectives:**

The following objectives and action items form the basis of the Roundtable's National Bee Health Action Plan.

#### **1. Mitigate losses from pests, pathogens, pesticides, and other causes; strengthen bee health and increase bee populations in Canada.**

While all areas of bee health are important, the Roundtable will prioritize its work on two initiatives:

- a. Increase the range of management options to control Varroa mites and other parasites
- b. Actively identify and promote ways to reduce exposure of bees to pesticides both inside the hive and out

In addition:

- Increase the range of registered veterinary drugs to treat pathogens such as Nosema
- Actively identify and promote ways to reduce exposure of bees to pesticides through Best Management Practices (BMPs) and better communication
- Increase tools and information for farmers – thresholds etc.
- Obtain better data on incidents
- Nutritionally diverse forage over extended growing season (spring, summer, and fall)

#### **2. Apiculture is a valued and recognized component of agriculture.**

The relationship between apiculture and other agricultural commodities must be enhanced. Not only are there environmental and social benefits, but the economic interdependence is substantial and often overlooked. The profitable co-existence between apiculture and other agricultural commodities must be promoted and recognized by all involved in the sector.

- National coordination on bee health issues
- Proactive identification of partnering opportunities among stakeholder groups
- Active promotion of co-benefits between beekeepers and agricultural producers

#### **3. Apiculture is a progressive and innovative industry in Canada**

Apiculture is able to reap the benefits of innovative research into all aspects of apicultural production including, for example, nutrition, Varroa and other pest control needs and genetics.

- Strategy to improve and enhance bee health at the federal level
- Coordination, implementation, and funding support for a national bee research strategy
- Federal lead identified on bee health
- Apiculture industry participation on Pest Management Advisory Council (PMAC)
- Address the issue of data generation and registration for in-hive pesticides and veterinary products

Given the tremendous importance of pollinators to agriculture, it is important that apiculture keeps the pace with change. A key component of the National Bee Health Action Plan is to promote investment in apiculture research so that apiculture can reap the benefits of innovative research that other commodity groups have enjoyed and continue to enjoy. Varroa control is paramount. A target to have a mite count below 5% at all times, with less than 1% mites in the spring and the fall is reasonable.

d'abeilles mellifères en santé au Canada et qui soutiennent une industrie apicole canadienne concurrentielle.

### **Mandat de la Table ronde sur la santé des abeilles:**

Le mandat de la Table ronde sur la santé des abeilles est de partager l'information, faire un travail de sensibilisation et collaborer à des stratégies axées sur le but de la Table ronde. Ceci est fait par des représentants multipartite de toute la chaîne de valeur de l'apiculture, notamment des éleveurs d'abeilles, des apiculteurs professionnels, des producteurs agricoles, des semenciers, des organismes de réglementation gouvernementaux, l'industrie de protection des cultures et des agronomes.

### **Principaux objectifs:**

Les objectifs et les mesures suivants jetteront les bases du plan d'action national sur la santé des abeilles.

#### **1. Atténuer les pertes associées aux organismes nuisibles, aux pathogènes, aux pesticides et à d'autres causes; renforcer la santé des abeilles et en accroître les populations au Canada.**

Bien que tous les aspects de la santé des abeilles soient importants, la Table ronde axera ses travaux en priorité sur deux initiatives.

- a. Étendre la gamme des options de lutte antiparasitaire homologuées pour le traitement du varroa et d'autres parasites.
- b. Rechercher et promouvoir activement des moyens de réduire l'exposition des abeilles aux pesticides tant à l'intérieur qu'à l'extérieur des ruches.

Autres initiatives

- Étendre la gamme des médicaments vétérinaires homologués pour le traitement de pathogènes tels que la nosérose
- Rechercher et promouvoir activement des moyens de réduire l'exposition des abeilles aux pesticides, grâce aux bonnes pratiques de gestion et à une meilleure communication.
- Produire des outils et de l'information à l'intention des agriculteurs – seuils, etc.
- Obtenir de meilleures données sur les incidents
- Assurer une alimentation variée sur le plan nutritif tout au long de la saison de croissance étendue (printemps, été, automne)

#### **2. L'apiculture est une composante appréciée et reconnue de l'agriculture.**

La relation entre l'apiculture et d'autres productions agricoles doit être améliorée. En plus des avantages sur le plan environnemental et social, l'interdépendance économique est considérable et souvent négligée. La coexistence bénéfique entre l'apiculture et d'autres productions agricoles doit être mise de l'avant et reconnue par tous les intervenants du secteur.

- Coordination nationale sur les questions relatives à la santé des abeilles et les groupes de parties intéressées
- Promotion active des avantages communs pour les éleveurs d'abeilles et les producteurs agricoles

#### **3. L'apiculture est une industrie progressive et innovatrice au Canada.**

L'apiculture peut bénéficier de recherches innovatrices dans tous les aspects de la production apicole, comme la nutrition, le varroa, d'autres besoins en matière de lutte antiparasitaire ainsi que la génétique.

- Stratégie pour améliorer la santé des abeilles au niveau fédéral
- Coordination, mise en œuvre et financement d'une stratégie nationale de recherche sur les abeilles
- Désignation d'un responsable fédéral en matière de santé des abeilles
- Participation de l'industrie de l'apiculture au Conseil consultatif de la lutte antiparasitaire (CCLA)
- Étude de la question de la production et de l'enregistrement des données sur les pesticides à l'intérieur des ruches et sur les produits vétérinaires

Compte tenu de l'importance considérable des pollinisateurs pour l'agriculture, il est important que le secteur de l'apiculture évolue au rythme des changements. Un élément clé du Plan d'action national sur la santé des abeilles est de promouvoir l'investissement dans la recherche apicole afin que l'apiculture puisse profiter des retombées de la recherche innovatrice au même titre que les autres groupes de produits.

In support of this target, access to several products that are 95% effective and can be used in rotation in order to mitigate the risk of resistance is essential.

For the apiculture industry to be sufficiently robust to meet the pollination needs of other agricultural commodities.

- Model predicted future pollination demands
- Develop potential capacity to meet demand

Pollination services are growing in importance in the apiculture industry. In recent years, the pollination industry has expanded from the traditional fruit crops, alfalfa, and clovers, to include canola, blueberries, and cranberries. Such expansion offers beekeepers substantial economic benefits. The growth opportunities are enormous and the potential economic returns for both beekeepers and agricultural producers are currently untapped. Working in conjunction with all components of agriculture, plans need to be developed to understand the projected needs of other sectors of agriculture and to expand the beekeeping industry to meet these needs.

#### **4. To ensure industry expertise and secure consumer confidence in apiculture products.**

As with other agricultural sectors, beekeepers must have the tools and knowledge to change with over time. Technology transfer initiatives need to be expanded. Educational initiatives in food safety and biosecurity need to be made available to all beekeepers independent of the size of operation. There needs to be recognition that there is a difference between commercial operations and hobby operations and appropriate tools for each need to be developed.

#### **5. To build trust and understanding among all stakeholders.**

To create and maintain channels of communication between all stakeholders involved in apiculture, including beekeepers, growers, commodity groups, regulators, crop protection companies, the public, etc.

- Telling the full bee health story to the public

As food production increases in importance and consumer interest grows in the production chain, it becomes increasingly important that a constant and cohesive message be put forward. This necessitates effective and efficient communication between all those interested in food production. With the growth of social media it is becoming more and more important that the correct message be expressed and that message should focus on collaborative efforts of all stakeholders to provide safe, nutritious and sustainable food for Canadian consumers. For beekeepers that means working closely with all interested parties.

- Conveying Canadian actions on all aspects of the bee health issue (Varroa, pesticides, forage, etc.)

The activities of the individual stakeholders that comprise the Bee Health Roundtable are not well understood by the Canadian agricultural sector or the public. All Roundtable members are committed to working together to promote a sustainable and healthy future for all agricultural stakeholders, including beekeepers. The Roundtable will need to continue to promote communications, both internally and externally, to improve cohesion and build trust.

- Bee Health Roundtable members commit to being champions

In order to ensure the strategy is successful and to gain trust among stakeholders, all bee health roundtable members need to commit to being champions for the strategy and objectives/initiatives as part of it; for the beekeeping industry and for the promotion of cohesion among beekeepers and agricultural producers. Roundtable members will play a role in implementing initiatives as part of the strategy and for promoting the roundtable and strategy with members of their respective organizations and the public. ■

La lutte contre le varroa est primordiale. Un décompte d'acariens de moins de 5 % en tout temps, avec moins de 1 % d'acariens au printemps et en automne, constitue un objectif raisonnable. À l'appui de cet objectif, il est essentiel d'avoir accès à quelques produits présentant une efficacité de 95 % et utilisables en rotation afin d'atténuer le risque de résistance.

L'industrie de l'apiculture doit être suffisamment robuste pour répondre aux besoins de pollinisation des autres produits agricoles.

- Prévision modélisée des demandes futures en matière de pollinisation
  - Mise en place des capacités potentielles nécessaires pour satisfaire à la demande
- Les services de pollinisation sont de plus en plus importants pour l'industrie de l'apiculture. Ces dernières années, l'industrie de la pollinisation s'est étendue au-delà des cultures fruitières traditionnelles, de la luzerne et du trèfle, pour englober le canola, les bleuets et les canneberges. Cette expansion génère des avantages économiques substantiels pour les éleveurs d'abeilles. Les possibilités de croissance sont énormes et les retombées économiques potentielles pour les apiculteurs et les producteurs agricoles sont actuellement inexploitées. En collaboration avec toutes les composantes de l'agriculture, des plans doivent être mis au point pour définir les besoins futurs des autres secteurs agricoles et pour développer l'industrie apicole afin d'y répondre.

#### **4. Assurer le savoir-faire de l'industrie et la confiance des consommateurs à l'égard des produits de l'apiculture.**

Comme dans le cas d'autres secteurs agricoles, les apiculteurs doivent disposer des outils et des connaissances nécessaires pour évoluer avec le temps. Les initiatives de transfert technologique doivent être développées. Des programmes éducatifs en salubrité alimentaire et en biosécurité doivent être mis à la disposition de tous les apiculteurs, quelle que soit la taille de leur entreprise. Il faut reconnaître la différence entre les activités commerciales et l'apiculture de loisir et mettre au point des outils adaptés à chaque besoin

#### **5. Établir la confiance et la compréhension entre tous les intervenants.**

Créer et maintenir des voies de communication entre toutes les parties intéressées de l'apiculture, y compris les apiculteurs, les producteurs, les groupements de producteurs, les organismes de réglementation, les entreprises de protection des cultures, le public, etc.

- Dire au public toute la vérité sur la santé des abeilles

Puisque la production alimentaire prend de l'ampleur et que l'intérêt des consommateurs se développe dans la chaîne de production, il est important d'utiliser un message uniforme et cohérent. Il faut établir une communication efficace et efficiente entre toutes les parties intéressées à la production des aliments. Avec le développement des médias sociaux, il est sans cesse plus important de communiquer le bon message, qui insiste sur le déploiement d'efforts conjoints de toutes les parties intéressées pour procurer aux consommateurs canadiens une nourriture saine, nutritive et durable. Pour les apiculteurs, cela signifie travailler en étroite collaboration avec toutes les parties intéressées.

- Faire connaître les mesures prises au pays sur tous les aspects de la santé des abeilles (varroa, pesticides, alimentation, etc.)

Les activités de chaque intervenant qui composent la Table ronde sur la santé des abeilles sont mal comprises par la population ou le secteur agricole du Canada. Tous les membres de la table ronde se sont engagés à unir leurs efforts afin de promouvoir un avenir durable et prospère pour tous les intervenants agricoles, y compris les apiculteurs. La table ronde devra continuer de promouvoir les communications, internes et externes, afin d'améliorer la cohésion et d'établir la confiance.

- Les membres de la Table ronde sur la santé des abeilles s'engagent à agir comme champions

Pour assurer la réussite de la stratégie et gagner la confiance des parties intéressées, tous les membres de la Table ronde sur la santé des abeilles doivent se faire les champions de la stratégie ainsi que des objectifs et initiatives qui en font partie, de l'industrie apicole et de la promotion de la cohésion entre les apiculteurs et les producteurs agricoles. Les membres de la Table ronde joueront un rôle dans la mise en œuvre des initiatives dans le cadre de la stratégie et la promotion de la Table ronde et de la stratégie auprès des membres de leurs organisations respectives et du public. ■

# Regional Reports



## Maritimes



Paul Vautour

As reported by Daniel Ficza, the challenge for P. E. Island beekeepers is to provide adequate numbers of bee colonies to meet the demand for wild blueberry pollination. Hive numbers have increased in the Province but cannot meet the increase in acreage, and as a result colonies from Nova Scotia and Ontario were needed in attempt to meet the demand.

However, there was an agreement that those colonies would be removed after pollination because of the scarcity of flowering forage crops for bees on the Island. Other forces are also at play. For example, one thousand acres of apple trees have been planted and also the high demand and buoyant price for honey may detract beekeepers from blueberry pollination. Honey production averaged 70-90 pounds in good goldenrod producing areas. Hives went into the Winter looking strong because of a mild Fall and good feeding conditions, and expectations are enthusiastic for over-winter survival.

Although I don't have a report from the Provincial Associations of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and notwithstanding that we have regional differences, intuition tells me that the pollination conditions are similar to that of P.E.I. According to N.B. Provincial Chief Apiary Inspector Fletcher Colpitts, this year's over-winter losses were less severe (although relatively high at 27%) and honey production was good. A favourable Summer season proved valuable for beekeepers that raise queens with reported successes of up to 100%. He also reports no significant spikes in disease or other catastrophic losses due to spray or use of agricultural chemicals (as experienced by our fellow beekeepers in Quebec and Ontario with whom we empathize). There appear to be some inexplicable variances in the weight of otherwise equal colonies that took their feed down very well going into the Winter but otherwise they seem to be rather healthy. The overall state of the industry in N.B. appears rosy in the Southeast and Northeast of the Province with growth in numbers, and despite some individual "grousing" there is optimism that we may be turning a corner to face a more prosperous future.

I have no statistics to report from Nova Scotia, but I received an excellent overview from Tracy Kittlesen (I assume past CHC Director Paul's sister) from the former Nova Scotia Agriculture College which is now Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture in Truro. Space does not allow me to write the entire text, but they are offering a second round of the "Modern Beekeeper Course." It is a

hands-on production course consisting of four modules timed with the annual beekeeping cycle. There are students from the four Atlantic Provinces in attendance and their tributes to the high quality of the course are glowing. Topics include: Introduction to Industry; Health and Safety; Bee Biology; Cost of Production; The ABC's of Buying Bees; Bee Hive and Health; Products, Pollination and Propagation ; etc. This is an exceedingly welcome addition of professional education and training of new beekeepers in our region and will hopefully create a positive business model for badly new entrants to our industry. For more information contact at [Extend.Learning@dal.ca](mailto:Extend.Learning@dal.ca).

## Québec

No report this time.

## Ontario



Jim Coneybear

Greetings from the presently cold Wellington County, Ontario. As the new CHC representative I would like to thank the OBA for allowing me to represent Ontario beekeepers. In our previous report Brian had speculated that honey production was down for 2014. Final numbers show Ontario production at least 20% below normal. Many beekeepers also reported the need to feed heavily- 80 to 90lbs of syrup to bring hives to wintering weight.

I think we need to work on Mr. Weather to drop some of our rain on BC which had such a dry summer. Our fall and early winter followed the summer trend and continued to be wet. I heard a statistic that it was the third wettest September in the past 100 years. Even our Christmas was wet and green. One advantage has been that beekeepers have not had snow to contend with and all our hives were wrapped and prepared for winter long before it has arrived.

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food has reported final neonic incident numbers similar to last year even though great efforts have been made to address the dust issue. Many hives were either winter fatalities or out of province in berry pollination before planting, and planters were fitted with deflectors so neonic dust was not a large factor during the spring. Throughout the summer though, beekeepers continued to experience problems. In Decem-

ber Premier Wynne and Ag Minister Leal announced the goal of reducing neonic use on corn and soy by 80% for the 2017 planting year. Thank-you Premier Wynne and Minister Leal! Hopefully beekeepers here will begin to experience normal wintering again and healthier bees moving forward.

Finally, Welcome Tibor Szabo to the 2 year office of OBA president. To all the beekeepers across Canada may we all experience successful wintering with low winter losses.

## Manitoba



Brian Ash

Over the past several years, Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) has been working at meeting the needs for healthy bee stocks in our province. We recognize the border issue has been divisive, yet local surveys have verified beekeepers attitudes changed over the years.

In light of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) Risk Assessment on the Importation of Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*) Packages from the United States of America document, it became apparent that the risks associated with importation are not uniform across Canada. MBA, with the assistance of Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, critically reviewed each of the risks outlined in the CFIA Risk Assessment in relation to the threat they posed to Manitoba through packaged bees imported from Northern California. We restricted our evaluation to packages from the same locations, and in fact some of the same operations, where queen bees are imported from. Our findings, recommendations, and actions are documented in a White Paper called "Importation of Packaged Honey Bees from California, United States to Manitoba, Canada"

MBA is releasing this "White Paper" document to the public, to inform them of our findings, as well as solicit feedback to help develop the necessary procedures and protocols to mitigate the threats. Check out [www.manitobabee.org](http://www.manitobabee.org) and look for the "White Paper" web page for the full report and response information.

We experienced warmer than usual temperatures in October followed by a colder than usual November. As of mid December, we have very little snow cover. Manitoba has only been able to increase our colony count to 78,000 hives. This is a 4,000 higher than 2013. With high winter losses, spring dwindle and fall culls, Manitoba is struggling to get back to our 90,000 plus hive count only a few years ago, and seems impossible to get back our 1980's hive count of around 110,000. Reports indicate that our honey crop is slightly below average for 2014. Manitoba honey producers are concerned with the shortage of labour in the rural areas. The temporary foreign worker program 4in/4out rule will have a great effect on beekeeping, as most apiary operations use the Temp Ag Stream. The MBA has met with Provincial Ag Minister Kostyshyn to highlight labour issues, Bee supply shortages, inspection program deficiencies, and the importation of cheap Chinese honey. We discussed the impact on the Manitoba economy. We assured our position on NEONICS, to work with seed farmers, CHC, and other farm groups to reduce pesticide exposure to honeybees.

The Manitoba Beekeepers Association convention is February 27th & 28th, 2015 held at Canad Inns Destination Centre Polo

Park, 1405 St Matthews Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Phone 204-775-8791 (use Conference code 265761, or Manitoba Beekeepers Assoc). For more information go to [www.manitobabee.org](http://www.manitobabee.org)

## Saskatchewan



Calvin Parsons

With a smaller than average honey crop here is Saskatchewan and some early movement of pre-sold honey into the market there is not a lot of honey in the hands of beekeepers.

The news of the packaging of 100% Chinese honey and it having a place on the store shelf is very disturbing to producers in Saskatchewan. It is odd that we have to compete with places that have very low costs of production and virtually no food traceability standards while Canadian producers are held to a higher and higher set of standards. It is hardly a level playing field when this sort of BS is allowed to go on.

Big news in Saskatchewan is the inception of the winter mortality insurance program administered by the Sask Crop Insurance Corporation. This is the first year of this program and it is a pilot program at this time. Time will tell how it all works out but there were a large number of producers who took advantage of the program. Of course in the first year of a program like this there is a steep learning curve for all parties but it looks as though it is coming together very well.

Hive counts in Saskatchewan seem to be inching upward and with a stable market for honey there would very likely be a significant growth in numbers. Colonies going into winter were in good condition with reports of mite numbers being very low.

The SBA annual convention was held in Saskatoon in November with a good turnout of beekeepers. Lots of chatter in the hallways and some excitement in the industry it is very good to see beekeeping looking positive and the participants upbeat and positive.

## Alberta



Kevin Nixon

This past week, I was able to attend the American Beekeepers Federation annual convention which was held at the Disney Resort in Anaheim. Even though I went on my own dime, I will give a small report of a few things which stood out. It was well attended with I believe around 800 people registered. Once again, there was a good presence of Canadian beekeepers at the meeting from the west right thru to the east.

Unfortunately, the American Honey Producers meeting was going on at exactly the same time and although it was tempting to drive the 35 miles over to the other one, the thought of Los Angeles traffic was a bit of a deterrent. Of course with the meeting being right at the Disney property, many including myself had the family along and we all were kept busy between meetings and spending time with Mickey Mouse, Ana and Elsa and others. Just when I thought the "Let it Go" phase was ending in my house, it has now resurfaced again.

Once again, attending this was a great place to catch up with our Canadian friends as well as our American friends and the com-

panies we do business with throughout the year. If you were to look at the agenda, priorities really align with ours back home in Canada. Top priorities would seem to be varroa mite control, nosema, pesticide exposure and nutrition. There is a lot of effort being put into alternative mite controls by a bunch of different parties, so I am hopeful that there will be something or a few things in the pipeline to help beekeepers with this. The exhibits area was once again filled up and it is obvious there is a concern with bee nutrition as it seems every year there is at least one or two more companies marketing some sort of feed additive or stimulant which has some claims of improving bee health. There was also a session on the use of prebiotics and probiotics and I think we will be hearing more about this over the next year or two both in the US and here in Canada.

On the pesticide topic, I believe we are probably ahead of the US in the way we have been able to work together and dialogue with stakeholders. Although the issue may be even more complex in the US due to the variety of crops around the country, there is a significant effort being made to work towards objective measures. The almond industry for example has put together a nice handout for growers to have which share some best management practices. This handout was also available in a nicely laminated card so that one could be left in each tractor/sprayer so that the operator could have one right in front of him rather than just sitting in the stack on a desk somewhere. There is also a definite level of concern around the use and application of fungicides.

As for what's been going on here in Alberta, well...same old. It's January, which means its cold and snowing. The temporary foreign worker program still seems to have forgotten the industries need for seasonal workers and it appears we are being lumped in with the agricultural groups which use temporary foreign workers for year round positions. I would hope this will be recognized as the need for 6-8 month laborers is very important within our industry. Work at the provincial and federal level will continue on this.

So rather than reiterate what others have probably already talked about, I will leave it at that. Hope everyone has had a good winter so far and hopefully winter ends earlier than it has the past couple years.

## British Columbia



Gerry McKee

"How are the bees doing?" the usual question when folks approach.

Winter survival is usually the benchmark and the Canadian Statistics prepared by Canadian Association of Professional Apiarists (CAPA) provides the compiled information from provincial apiarists. B.C.s 2013-14 winter loss was about 30 % an increase from 18% the previous winter. Vancouver Island, the most temperate

winter region in Canada, had a loss over 38 % (no insurance nor government compensation to influence the count). Possible causes were many but most indicate the need for better management. This emerging situation is surprising for a region, not long ago, provided the colder regions of the province with packages and nucs.

This year, the loss for Vancouver Island could be similar to last year. Summer weather in the southern region was a scorcher and limited soil moisture significantly reduced forage. Beekeepers in mid August, instead of pulling honey suppers, had to begin feeding syrup. The feeding was critical to ensure adequate brood development for colonies to reach an adequate size for winter survival. Weather is still the predominant factor affecting honeybees while management expertise needs to continually improve for profitability and sustainability.

Although there have been no Bee Incidences from neonicotinoid seed applications in B.C., our Pest Management Regulatory Agency conducted two monitoring soil and hive samplings in the Fraser and Okanagan Valleys. The lab analysis could be available early this year and provide some clues as to whether the prophylactic seed treatment practices need closer attention. Pesticides are only one of many possible factors beekeepers need to consider in managing their colonies.

Best Wishes for a healthy spring colony buildup.



Bernie Rousseau

## Bee Maid Honey

Bee Maid Honey is launching a consumer campaign in 2015 reminding consumers to Read the Back Label to find out where their honey really comes from. Bee Maid Honey is proud to supply only 100% pure Canadian honey, and to support Canadian beekeepers and agriculture.

How much  
Canadian honey is  
in your bottle?



Read the back label.

When you buy 100% Canadian BeeMaid Honey, you're also supporting Canadian beekeepers and Canadian agriculture. BeeMaid Honey is ethically sourced, fully traceable and always delicious. Read your back label, and make sure you know exactly where your honey is coming from. Choose Canadian. Choose BeeMaid.





# more honey

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# HONEY PROMOTIONS Through Partnerships

*By Jim Campbell, Stonewall area beekeeper*



Safe exposure to bees helps enhance peoples' interest in nature (poster by Jim Campbell)

Bees are the only insects that produce food for people! Have you ever tried eating honey on cheese on toast? What do you like about bees?

Interesting opening lines from volunteers engage visitors at the annual “Honey Days” promotion at the Forks Market, in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Opening lines are important! These are creative ways to display our passion for an industry we love. Our volunteers’ act as ambassadors of agriculture, to help visitors associate the food they eat with the real people who produce it. And more specifi-

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Rheel Lafreniere, Manitoba Provincial Apiarist, explains equipment used in beekeeping (photo by Jim Campbell)

cally, we represent the honey industry and our favourite insect, the honey bee. All activities at Honey Days promotions are focused on encouraging an interest in, and understanding of, the benefits of our agriculture sector, as it benefits most everyone.

Promotional events in Manitoba are founded on a series of partnerships. The first one starts with the commercial producer organization - the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA). Producers recognize promoting the industry is important, not only to encourage people to use honey in everyday meals and snacks, but also to generate interest and engage people to take up beekeeping. MBA partnered with the hobby group, Red River Apiarists' Association (RRAA), to organize and staff the honey show as typically, hobbyists have interest in talking with customers and lots of passion for teaching others of the benefits of bees.



Jim Campbell, MBA Secretary, engaging visitors in conversations about fascinating bees (photo by Barb Campbell)

As well, the club is better equipped to muster volunteers to staff the displays. In 2013 RRAA celebrated 50 years of managing the promotions by giving all volunteers colourful golden t-shirts. The shirt front incorporates RRAAs' logo, while the back carries the words "Manitoba Honey Show". This move certainly spruced up the event and ensured volunteers were easy for customers to connect with.

The annual Honey Show and Competition has been rebranded as a result of another partnership established a few years ago with Culture Days. This is a Canada-wide celebration of different events and things people do as part of their heritage or culture. Our main event is now "Honey Days". And for 2014 we were featured on the Manitoba web link for Culture Days. Partnering has broadened media exposure!

Honey Days has three distinct features that are based on partnerships. Features include Honey Competition, Beekeeping Industry, and Hive Product Sales.

The Honey Competition is our industry's way of stimulating beekeepers to prepare their best products for display and judging. In a partnership of sorts, Manitoba adopted judging criteria of Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (RAWF), in Toronto, as we often have entries in that competition as well. To attract visitors, the Competition area, with colourful backdrops, decorations, and winner ribbons complements the competition display shelves. To attract new entrants, a "Bee-Ginner" category was created with criteria mainly based on aroma and flavour. A partnership with Guy Chartier of Bee Maid results in their boardroom temporarily being the main hub for collecting and judging entries prior to the show.

The second, and largest feature is the Industry Display. We partner with Bee Outfitters, a retail outlet of Bee Maid in Winnipeg, where Josh Kolesar is very helpful in loaning new materials, such as extractor; hive body, queen excluder, educational photos, etc. for visitors to look at. Another partnership is with the University of Manitoba (U of M), as

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Colours of Manitoba Honey - different flavours and sources of honey make a colourful display (photo by Jim Campbell)



Honey For Health display - variety of health products incorporating honey or other hive elements (photo by Jim Campbell)

Rob Currie and his students provide us with a frame of brood and one of honey for the observation hive, where the queen is marked, as visitors, and especially younger students, always ask to see her. At the observation hive, a magnifying glass helps make the queen easier to see. Kids love this tool, yet we have to tie it down, as excited visitors tend to walk off with it. Here visitors are encouraged to “Hear The Buzz” and “Feel The Heat”. Adjacent to the hive, large 20”x30” posters, designed by RRAA partners, invite those interested in beekeeping to talk with our volunteers. This is supplemented with a handout detailing how to visit [www.beekeepingmanitoba.com](http://www.beekeepingmanitoba.com) to join RRAA, take the beginner course at U of M, read books, get started with bees, and register with the province. This area creates the setting for many partnerships, depending on the years’ theme. “Read The Label” saw a partnership for a label poster from Bee Maid, “Honey-Everyday” partnered with a grocery chains products containing honey, “Healthy Honey” used CHC Pure Honey brochures, “Honey now and future” partnered with a collectors antique tins, while “Honey Good For Us” used CHC Better naturally (Bear theme) brochures. Recently “Bees-Good For Us” is reflected by a local sign company posters. Signage encourages visitors to use Bee-Friendly plants.

Hive Product Sales completes the display features. Partnering with at least two vendors works best for our design. Sales are a crucial element in the event. Youngsters and adults alike enjoy tasting colourful honey varieties of Manitoba; strong flavoured dark brown Buckwheat, mild tasting water white Clover, and flavourful yellow-gold Sunflower. Vendors, using their own label, provide a variety of container sizes, honey bears, honey spreads, wax tablets, bees wax candles, pollen jars, and even some tree ornaments made with bees wax. Changing customer demands are reflected in floral specific honey varieties, flavoured spreads, and smaller sized containers.

Manitoba has two major events, as “Bee Day” is celebrated the last Saturday in May using the Industry and Vendor display model. This time was chosen over the proposed May 29 date for the “Day of the Honey Bee”, as volunteers and vendors are more readily available then.

Our strong partnership with the Forks Market is now evidenced when they ask us to return, as our interesting and interactive display creates customers asking for us! For those considering a promotional event, partnering for the benefit of everyone seems to be a great fit for success. ■

# Production and value of honey

## Statistics Canada

Estimates	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Beekeepers (3)	7403	7713	8312	8489	8777
Colonies (3)	620291	637920	690037	667397	694217
Production of honey, total (pounds x 1,000) (4)	81672	79824	90759	76468	81556
Value of honey, total (dollars x 1,000) (5)	144197	150691	176206	181283	201620

### Footnotes:

1. Figures are compiled by Statistics Canada from provincial data, except for New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island where data are collected through a Statistics Canada mail survey.
2. Does not include Newfoundland and Labrador.
3. Beekeeper and colony numbers may include pollinators that may not extract honey.
4. Production excludes inventory.
5. Value excludes inventory sales except for in Quebec.

## Saskatraz Breeding Stock Available in 2015

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# Looking for “the best bee” An experiment about interactions between origin and environment of honey bee strains

By Marina Meixner and Ralph B uchler - Originally published in German in “die Biene – ADIZ – Imkerfreund (<http://www.diebiene.de>) in August 2014.

Translated into English by Marina Meixner – adapted by Cecilia Costa

Translated into Italian and adapted by Cecilia Costa

Submitted by Pierre Giovenazzo

For millions of years honey bees have survived without human help, but today high colony losses are common, and everybody talks about honey bee decline. We know that extensive use of pesticides and presence of exotic parasites weaken honey bee colonies, but did the vitality of the bees themselves also change? Is it possible that increased selection on productivity leads to genetic deprivation, or do we displace resistant, locally adapted populations by careless importations? A group of scientists within the COLOSS network has addressed these questions with a large-scale experiment.

The international research network COLOSS (Prevention of Colony Losses, [www.coloss.org](http://www.coloss.org)) was founded in 2008 and received funding from the EU COST program until 2012. The network aims to promote international collaboration on research about colony losses. With COLOSS, the working group “Diversity and Vitality” investigated the survival of honey bee colonies in relation to their genetic origin and their adaptation to environmental factors such as climate, diseases and beekeeping management.

## Europe-wide comparison

To study the complex interactions between honey bee colonies and their environment, we conducted a very large experiment involving col-

leagues from 11 countries. In this experiment, we compared 16 different strains of honey bees in different environments for two and a half years, with respect to characters such as honey yield, survivability and susceptibility to diseases. The experimental apiaries were distributed across Europe, reaching from Finland in the North to Sicily and Greece in the South (figure 1). The different strains in the experiment consisted of breeding lines maintained at the institutes involved, local breeding stock, regional bees that had not been subjected to breeding efforts or lines from conservation programs. The strains belonged to the five subspecies *Apis mellifera mellifera*, *A. m. carnica*, *A. m. ligustica*, *A. m. macedonica* and *A. m. siciliana*.

Each strain was present with at least ten colonies in at least three of the 21 apiaries. In every apiary, the local strain was compared to at least two “foreign” strains.

## Uniform starting conditions

The colonies were uniformly built in the summer of 2009, either from shook swarms or from splits, and the experimental queens were introduced. The experiment started on October 1 2009, when all colonies consisted of offspring of the new queens, and ended on March 31, 2012.

All colonies were evaluated in regular intervals. Colony development, amount of brood and all other characters were assessed according to international recommendations (B uchler et al., 2013). These were based on the traditional Apimondia guidelines, but were expanded to include characters such as brood hygiene. Thus, they were adapted to the challenges of selection of vital and resistant bees. In addition, at several times bee samples were taken from each colony and examined for bee diseases.

A colony was considered as lost when it had either collapsed or the colony strength was considered insufficient for further survival. Queenlessness or the presence of a drone laying queen was also regarded as colony loss.

No medication was used during the entire experiment; however, it was possible to perform a total brood removal for control of Varroa mites (per apiary). To prevent spillover of mites from collapsing colonies, the Varroa infestation of each colony was monitored continuously, and colonies in danger of collapsing were treated. At

the same time, they were counted as lost and excluded from further analyses (the complete test protocol is described in Costa et al., 2012).

## Hybridization reduces gentleness

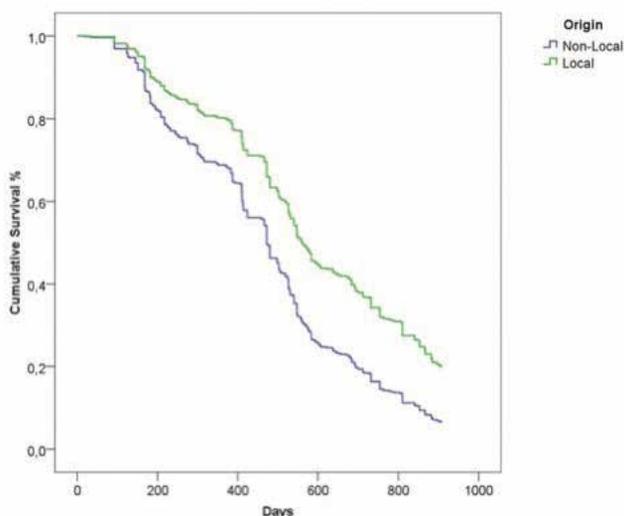
Although we observed noticeable differences in behavior and per-



formance between strains that originated from breeding programs and strains that had received little selective effort in the past, no single strain showed superior performance at all locations. However, we most noticeably observed that strains showing strong signs of hybridization in the genetic analysis (Francis et al., 2014a) scored significantly lower in the assessment for gentleness (Uzunov et al., 2014).

### Local strains survive longer

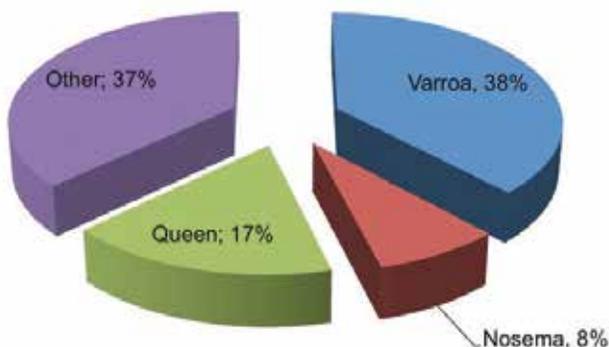
Of the 597 colonies we could analyze, 94 (15.7%) survived until the end of the experiment. We observed drastic differences in survival time and disease load, both between locations and between the genetic strains. At some locations, for instance in Lunz (Austria) or Schenkenturn (Germany), all colonies collapsed already in the second winter (2010/2011), while colonies in Avignon (France) survived longest with on average almost two years. Survival time between the strains also differed noticeably. Here, we observed a significant difference in survival time between local strains and foreign strains (figure 2). While in any



given location a colony of a foreign strain survived on average 470 days, the mean survival time of a local colony was 553 days. Local bees thus survived on average 83 days longer than foreign ones (Büchler et al., 2014)

### Reasons for losses

The most frequent evident reasons for colony loss were Varroa (38%), problems with the queen (loss, drone layer, etc., 17%) and Nosema (8%). All other reasons (starvation, robbing, unspecified winter loss, other diseases, unknown reason) were less frequent, but together accounted for 37% of the losses (figure 3).



### Varroa infestation influenced by location

The infestation with Varroa mites was significantly more strongly influenced by the apiary location compared to the genetic origin of the colony (Meixner et al., 2014). The Varroa infestation rates differed greatly over the individual apiary locations. In some places we observed a fast buildup of mite population, while in other locations infestation rates increased much more slowly. The differences between experimental stations were often much higher than the differences between surviving and collapsing colonies at one single station. In the autumn of 2010, for instance, we observed extremely high infestation rates between 30% and 40% at the experimental locations of Unije (Croatia) and Dimovci (Bulgaria). In spite of these high infestations, many colonies at these two locations survived the following winter. In contrast, mite infestation rates at stations in Poland and Italy increased more slowly and remained below 10%, even after two years without medication. In Kirchhain (Germany), the autumn 2010 mean infestation rate of surviving colonies was 9.1%, while in collapsing colonies it was 24.3% (Büchler et al., 2014).

The differing length of season and the resulting differences in colony development certainly were among the main reasons for the differences in mite population development across the experimental colonies (Hatjina et al. 2014). Our results indicate that there is substantial variation of Varroa damage thresholds across different regions of Europe. To determine these thresholds, comprehensive investigations involving sufficiently large numbers of colonies are needed.

### Nosema not among major causes for losses

The gut parasite Nosema was present in almost all locations, but colony losses ascribed to Nosema were low and in the majority (25 of 37 cases) occurred in a single location (Le Bine, Italy) at the beginning of the experiment. The Nosema spore load across the experimental colonies was over all rather low; only at the locations in Poland and Italy higher spore numbers were occasionally observed. In most apiaries we only observed the “new” Nosema species *Nosema ceranae*, while *Nosema apis* was restricted to few locations and mostly occurred in mixed infections with *N. ceranae*. Pure *N. apis* infections were sporadically found only in Finland and Poland. Thus, our data do not support *Nosema ceranae* as a major cause for substantial colony losses (Meixner et al., 2014).

### Viruses

The frequency of virus infections (Acute Bee Paralysis Virus and Deformed Wing Virus) was also strongly influenced by the apiary location. For instance, in autumn 2010 in samples from Finland, no viruses at all were found, while both viruses were present in all analyzed samples from Bulgaria. Overall we could not determine an effect of genetic origin on the frequency of virus infections. However, an in-depth study performed on samples from the Greek location (one of the largest, containing 4 genotypes) showed that local colonies tended to have lower levels of pathogens. In this case study the seasonal trends of the viruses were confirmed (lower levels in spring, higher in autumn), together with the significant correlation between varroa and DWV (Francis et al., 2014 b).

### Local bees may be at advantage

Thus, our results clearly demonstrate that location effects play a predominant role in the occurrence of bee diseases. Both local and foreign bees suffered from parasites and other pathogens. Yet, the mean survival duration of local bee origins was significantly longer than that of foreign ones. Possibly, this ostensible contradiction indicates that local bees may command more resources for keeping parasites and pathogens in check, due to their better adaptation to the local environment, climate and vegetation, but also to the locally prevailing manage-

ment methods. In addition, newer research demonstrated that especially viruses exhibit substantial genetic variation across regions that may influence their virulence (Cornman et al., 2013). It could be possible that local bees are better adapted to “their” strains of viruses and are therefore better able to cope with them.

### The best bee does not exist!

In conclusion, our experiment demonstrated that “the best bee” showing excellent performance and superior disease tolerance across all environments does not exist. Instead, the local bees were not only the most long-lived, but in many cases also received better scores for gentleness and honey yield.

Therefore, we suggest devoting more attention to the preservation of the variety of genetic resources of honey bees across Europe. One way to achieve this could be the establishment of conservation areas to protect endangered populations from uncontrolled introgression of imported strains. In particular, however, we would like to emphasize the necessity of regional selection and breeding efforts. Such efforts would contribute to an improvement of local bees and, in consequence, increase their acceptance with local beekeepers. Special attention within such programs should be devoted to traits like disease tolerance and vitality.

The uncontrolled importation of bee strains from different areas endangers well-adapted local bee populations and is often not even to the advantage of the beekeeper, as our experimental results show. For the common beekeeper, our recommendation would be to purchase queens from local breeders whose material has been selected after long-term comparative testing in their own region.

The results of this experiment have been published with open access in a series of scientific articles in the current Special Issue (May 2014) of *Journal of Apicultural Research* ([www.ibrabee.org](http://www.ibrabee.org)) and are listed in the references. This article provides an overview on the most significant results. ■

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### Figure captions

Figure 1: Map of Europe showing the 21 test locations covering 11 countries. Each location is indicated by a black dot, with its name shown in the white box. The genetic lines maintained at each location are indicated as letters below each name. The legend at top right corner links the letters to the genetic lines. The abbreviations mean: CarB = Carnica Bantin (Germany), CarC = Carnica Croatia, CarG = Carnica Kunki (Poland), CarK = Carnica Kirchhain (Germany), CarP = Carnica Gasiory (Poland), CarL = Carnica Lunz (Austria), CarV = Carnica Veitshöchheim (Germany), LigI = Ligustica Italy, LigF = Ligustica Finland, MacB = Macedonica Bulgaria, MacG = Macedonica Greece, MacM = Macedonica Macedonia, MelF = Mellifera France, Mell = Mellifera Læsø (Denmark), MelP = Mellifera Poland, Sic = Siciliana. The letter in the circle next to each location indicates the respective local strain.

Example: In Kirchhain, the strains D, E, and N were tested, with CarK (D) being the local strain. In addition, CarP (E) and MelF (N) were tested.

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Figure 2: Trajectories of colony survival for colonies of local (green) and foreign (blue) origin across all locations. The horizontal axis shows the experimental duration in days. The vertical axis shows the proportion of colonies still alive (1.0 = 100%).

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Figure 3: Causes for colony loss during the experiment. In “Other” all other causes (unspecified winter loss, starvation, robbing, other diseases, unknown reason) are summarized.



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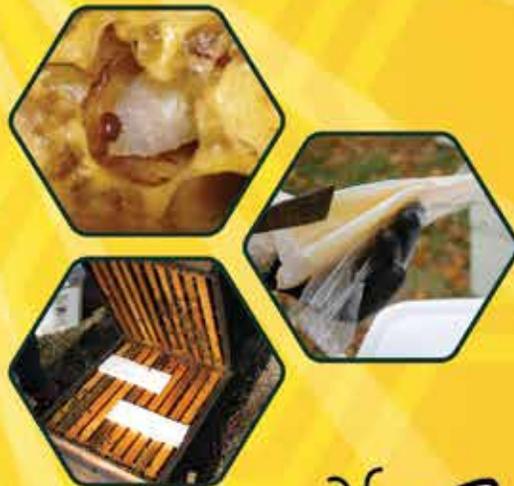
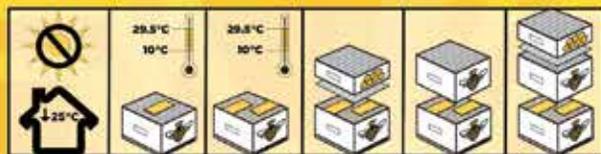
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# Varroa – The Scourge of Beekeeping

By Doug McRory

I would like to have you think about the biology of Varroa mite and consider the options that we have to reduce its impact on our honey bees. Without continual vigilance to controlling this pest, it can cause unwanted reduction in production and colony losses. This is a continual battle throughout the beekeeping year to minimize the effects of this world wide pest to where it is of minimal effect on our honey bee colonies. We do have the tools to do this job! It pays to be reminded of why we are doing what we do to keep Varroa mites controlled. Are we missing one part of the puzzle? It is good to think through the process again to be sure we are doing everything we can to reduce the effects of Varroa mites on our honey bees.

First let's look at the very interesting and involved biology of the Varroa mite. As a starting point for discussion, the fertilized adult mite that has fed on the blood of adult honey bees, goes into the cell of either a drone or worker larvae and hides under

the brood food at the bottom of the cell until the worker bees cap the cell. In order to hide in the brood food so they are undetected by the house bees, the female Varroa mite has two especially adapted snorkel tubes that she extends to continue to get air while under the brood food. Dr. Dennis Anderson of Australia has an excellent video of the mite in the brood food with these special appendages exposed.



Close up view of varroa mites (Photo: Ontario Ministry of Agriculture)



Honey bees infested with varroa mites. Note the red ovals on the body of the bees (Photo: Ontario Ministry of Agriculture)

the brood food with these special appendages exposed.

Once the capping is in place and the workers bees cannot disturb her, the female then comes out into the cell and chews a hole in the side of the larva and she will keep this "well" open for herself and her offspring to feed on the hemolymph (blood) of the

developing larva. This wound is the cause of most of the problem with Varroa. The open wound leads to the introduction of virus particles into the body of the larval honey bee. Varroa transmits several of the bee viruses (there are about 19 known viruses of the honey bee with about 5-6 that are the most serious. New viruses are being added with the latest technology to detect them). These viruses replicate very quickly in the larvae and they are responsible for the problems we see in the honey bees. The virus that you can see the direct results of as a beekeeper is deformed wing virus as the adult honey bees has shrivelled up wings. This is probably the most devastating of all the viruses to the honey bees. Most of the viruses of honey

bees were known before the introduction of the Varroa mite to the honey bees of the world but would only reach outbreak levels on very rare occasions. The destructive force of Varroa is mainly the result of this extremely fast replication of the different viruses that are associated with the honey bee to very destructive levels. We have no way to reduce the effects of the virus directly at this time so our only hope is to reduce the Varroa population to where the effects that it causes on the numbers of virus particles in the honey bees is below a threshold of activity that causes the lowest amount of damage to the honey bees. Remember that these viruses are specific only to honey bees.

The Varroa quickly lays a male egg and begins defecating at a specific spot in the top of the cell. This location is critical to the mating process of the Varroa as the male must find and mate its sister mites within

the dark cell. This fecal mount appears to be important in this mating behaviour and if the fecal material is spread around in the cell the females come out infertile and nonreproductive. The male never leaves the cell and his only function is to mate with the females within the cell. The males are opaque white in colour and the females are dark red.

The original foundress mite will lay several female eggs and depending on the length of time that the larva takes to pupate, that will determine how many gravid (mated) adult female mites will emerge from the larval cell. Normally there will be one new female Varroa mite along with the foundress mite emerges from a worker cell but up to four will emerge with the original mite from a drone cell because of the longer pupation period of the honey bee drones. The Varroa are more highly attracted to the drone brood, as 80% of the mites present in a colony with drone brood present will be in the drone brood. This factor actually protects the workers from Varroa depredation during this period. When the drones are removed from the colonies in August there is a large migration of Varroa mites into the worker larvae and as these are the cohorts of honey bees that will form the winter cluster of the colony. If these numbers are high, the

virus will be high in those larva and even though the beekeeper treats later in the season and gets rid of the adult Varroa mites, the bees will be what I call "The Walking Dead" as the colonies can look very strong but they are loaded with virus particles that kill the bees when they hit the stresses of winter.

When the foundress mite and her daughters leave the cell when the adult bee hatches they have to have a feed of adult bee hemolymph (bee blood) before going back into another cell and starting again. They usually do so at the wing bases. This feeding on blood is similar to mosquitoes that require a feed of blood in order to reproduce. Each gravid female Varroa mite can continue producing offspring for up to six times. You can see how the numbers ex-



Close up of a sticky board sample. Note the very high levels of varroa mites  
(Photo: Ontario Ministry of Agriculture)

pand geometrically so quickly with the Varroa mites. This is why we need to keep the levels so low throughout the season.

In the next edition we will discuss how the various options for control of Varroa mite's co-ordinate with knowing how this biology of the Varroa works.



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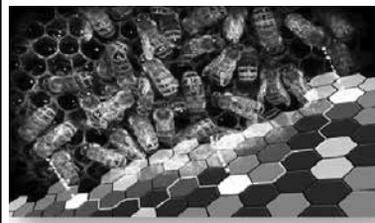
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Leroy Poelman, Poelman Honey Inc., Box 85 Granum, Alberta Canada T0L 1A0.

E-mail resumes to Leroy\_poelman@yahoo.ca or FAX to 403-687-2120

#### Help Wanted - Alvinston (ON)

6 seasonal beekeeper labourers in Alvinston, Ontario, Canada from April until December 2015.

Work is physically demanding and includes hive management and maintenance.

An International Driver's License is required. Must be able to follow instructions in English.

Send resume to info@munrohoney.com mail to: info@munrohoney.com or Munro Honey, Box # 428, Alvinston, Ontario Canada N0N 1A0

#### Help Wanted - Carlisle (ON)

Dutchman's Gold Inc. in Carlisle Ontario is now recruiting for 2015 season:

1 Apiarist (Farm Manager NOC 0821)-

Requirements: college degree in Apiculture and minimum two years experience apiary technician (supervisory role): drivers license with clean driving record.

Duties: Year round management of all aspects of beekeeping operation; prepare and deliver colonies for pollination contracts; supervise and work alongside apiary technicians and workers; keep records and order supplies; operate and maintain vehicles and equipment.

This is a year round position: remuneration \$16:00 to \$20:00 /hour. Housing and vehicle available.

2 Apiary Technicians (Farm Workers NOC 8431)

Requirements: College degree or two years experience in commercial apiary; drivers license with clean driving record.

Duties: Handle, Feed and care for Honey Bee colonies as seasonally required; recognize hive health issues and take remedial action; take direction from and work alongside Farm Manager; prepare colonies for honey production and pollination contracts, harvest honey crop; operate vehicles and equipment.

This is a 9 month position (March-November). Could lead to full time, year round. Remuneration \$14:00 to \$16:00/ hour. Housing available.

2 Apiary workers (Farm Workers NOC 8431)

Requirements: Beekeeping experience preferred but not required; must be able to lift heavy boxes; must not be allergic to bee stings;

Duties: Work alongside and assist beekeeping technicians and supervisor as required;

This is a 9 month position (March –November). Could lead to technician position with experience. Remuneration \$11:50-\$13:00/hour: housing available. Contact: John Van Alten, email john@dutchmansgold.com or fax 905-689-7730

#### Help Wanted - Pitt Meadows (BC)

4 Experienced beekeepers & 1 Honeybee Farm Supervisor - 4 experienced beekeepers wanted for February 15 - Novem-

ber 15, 2015, and 1 honeybee farm supervisor on a permanent full-time basis starting February 1st 2015.

Preference will be given to candidates with queen rearing experience. Hourly pay rate \$13 - \$20, depending on experience. Send resumes to manager, Honeyland Canada Inc. email: manager@HoneylandCanada.com

Ron Lin, Ph.D., President, Honeyland Canada, 17617 Ford Road, Pitt Meadows, B.C. Canada V3Y 1Z1 Tel: 604 460-8889; Fax: 604 460-8887 Email address: DrBee@shaw.ca website: www.HoneylandCanada.com

#### Help Wanted: Vanderhoof, (BC)

Wanted Apiary technician by 2015 Spring (Noc 8253) Starting \$20.00 and negotiable per experience. One year related per experience required. Year round for right person.

-To facilitate the operation of beehives to produce honey and related products such as bee pollen.

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-work varied hours and weather conditions if needed with heavy lifting -32kg honey boxes.

- withstand bee stings. Recognize Bee Health issues and take remedial actions.

-Perform maintenance on equipment, especially for extracting.

-Lead harvest/extraction crew as needed.

Contact: Jon Aebischer, 395 w 5th street V0J 3A0, Vanderhoof BC

Juanaebis@sweetnechakohoney.ca

#### Help Wanted: Kinistino, (SK)

Apiary Harvest Labourer. Work in automatic honey extracting facility which includes placing honey supers on an automatic lift to a conveyor through an uncapper into the extractor to remove the honey, then removing empty honey supers to be used again or stacked away for the year. Wage \$10.35. Fulltime seasonal from July 15th to Sept 15th, 2015. Long hours. Some experience would be welcome but not necessary, physical demanding, repetitive tasks, standing for extended periods, working as a team and working around some bees. Location: Kinistino, Sask. Contact by e-mail to rbacon@sasktel.net

#### Help Wanted: Nipawin, (SK)

Rehaluk Honey. PO Box 3156 Nipawin, SK. S0E 1E0 needs 6 Honey plant Labourers for full time employment from mid June 25 to mid Sept. 2015. Wages start at \$11.35 per hour with 40 hours per week typical. No previous work experience required, no education required. Job duties include honey extraction, cleaning extracting equipment, filling containers, and cleaning and maintaining hive equipment. email: stinger.apiaries@sasktel.net

#### Help Wanted: Southern Alberta, (AB)

Wanted Apiary general farm workers, (NOC8431) to help in day to day operations for a commercial beekeeping operation in Southern Alberta. Experience an asset, however willing to train right person. Minimum 45 hours a week, wage starting at \$14.00 per hour. Drivers license an asset. Must be in good physical shape. Must be able to speak and write English. If interested please email resume to beecruzin@gmail.com

#### Help Wanted: Shellbrook, (SK)

Hannigan Honey Inc. PO Box 367 Shellbrook, SK. S0J 2E0 needs 7 Apiary Harvest Labourers for full time employment June 25 to Sept. 15. 2015. Wages start at \$11.00 per hour with 45 hours per week typical. Primary work place is Hannigan Honey, Plant located 1.5 km North of Shellbrook on Shell River Road. No previous work experience required, no education required. Job duties include honey extraction, cleaning extracting equipment, filling containers, and cleaning and maintaining hive equipment. Email: hanniganhoney@sasktel.net

#### Help wanted: Porcupine plain, (SK)

Help wanted for 5 beekeeper helpers for 2015 season for 4 to 6 months. Hourly rate: \$12.00 to \$15.00 per hour depending on their ability. Allhouse Honey Farms Box 12, Porcupine Plain, SK S0E 1H0

#### Help Wanted: Arborfield, (SK)

McKee Apiaries, Box 329, S0E 0A0

Contact: honey.bee@sasktel.net

5 Apiary Workers Wages starting at \$11.35 Term April 15-October 15, 2015. (Duties Include)

1. Unwrapping, feeding, inspection of honeybee colonies
  2. Construction and maintenance of woodenware equipment
  3. Moving hives, making new hives, removal and extraction of honey
  4. Preparing hives for winter
- 2 Apiary Labourers Wages starting at \$10.35 Term May 15-September 15, 2015 (Duties Include)
1. Removing and extracting honey under supervision
  2. Cleaning and maintaining equipment
  3. Assembling and maintaining woodenware equipment
  4. Cutting grass and general cleaning duties

#### Help Wanted: Codrington, (ON)

Honey & Queens Inc. Requires 1 Apiary Worker (NOC number 8431 for the 2014, 2015 seasons.

Experience: Candidate must have minimum 2 seasons working experience in an apiary. Duties: Handle, feed and care for honeybee colonies. Assist in the production of queen cells, nucs, queens. Recognize, report and monitor hive health issues and apply appropriate cures. Prepare and transport hives for pollination and honey production. Bee Yard maintenance. Harvest honey crop. Operate, build and maintain apiary and beehive related equipment.

Wages: depending on experience, starting at \$11.56 per hour.

Working conditions: Apiary worker will work long hours at certain times of the year including weekends and holidays. Many tasks are performed outside in all kinds of weather. Candidate must be in good physical health and will be required to lift items weighing 30kg or more. Bee yards are located in Eastern Ontario.

Language: English or Russian/ Ukrainian.

Could lead to permanent full time employment for the right candidate.

Contact: Yuriy at Honey and Queens Inc. 331 Old Wooler Rd., Codrington, Ontario. K0K1R0.

E-mail: yrskoba@gmail.com Phone: (613)475-5559

#### Help Wanted: Beamsville (ON)

7 seasonal beekeeping labourers.

Contact-Charlie-Bee Honey E-mail- Charlie-beehoney@sympatico.ca

Mike Parker-1 905 563 7285

7 Seasonal beekeepers wanted April to Nov. 2015

\$10.35/hour. Work is physically demanding and long hours. Includes beehive management and maintenance. Must have valid and clean drivers license.

Charlie-Bee Honey requires 2 apiary technicians for the 2015 season.

Apiary Technician- experience- 2 years minimum in the apiary field. Seasonal with potential for year round for the right person.

Duties- handle, feed, care for bee colonies, supervise crew members. Recognize bee health issues and take remedial action. Prepare hives for transportation for pollination and honey production. Bee yard maintenance. Operate and maintain machinery relevant to our apiary. Harvest honey, build and maintain beehive equipment, keep proper records. Able to interact with other people we deal with in our operations. Wages- depends on experience.

Working Conditions- long hours at certain times of the year. A lot of jobs required outside in all kinds of weather. Heavy lifting involved. Must be a team players and able to work well and efficiently alone or in a crew. A lot of travelling in Ont. and Manitoba required. Must have valid and clean drivers license. DZ or AZ beneficial but not necessary. Operate machinery but will train. Own transportation to and from work..

#### Help Wanted: Cottam/Wellington, (ON)

Seasonal beekeeper - April to Mid November 2015

Beekeeping experience an asset but willing to train. Position will require working with bees, extracting honey and must be

willing to travel. All applicants must be physically fit, able to lift 70 lbs. English speaking with drivers licence preferred. Wages to start at \$10.25/hr and up based on experience. Reply to: Sun Parlor Honey Ltd, 238 E County Rd 14 RR1, Cottam, ON N0R 1B0 or info@sunparlorhoney.ca

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#### Help Wanted: Zenon Park, (SK)

Moyen honey farm ltd.

7 Full-time seasonal apiary harvest workers for 2015 season

Help with:

- Spring check, hive assessment
- Pest and disease control
- Grafting, making nucs, and raising queens.
- Assembling new equipment, and repair equipment.
- Supering hives, and harvesting honey.
- Maintaining bee yards.
- Fall feeding, treating hives, and wrapping hives.

Positions available from march 15, 2015 to oct.30, 2015  
Wages starting @ \$11.53

Contact name- gerry moyen ph.#306-767-2440

Fax# 306-767-2626

Email resume @ germoyen@hotmail.com

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#### Help wanted: zenon park, (sk).

Moyen honey farm ltd.

11 Full-time seasonal apiary harvest labourer for 2015 season

Help with:

- Spring feeding
- Assembling new equipment
- Supering hives, and harvesting honey
- Filling honey containers
- Cleaning honet extraction equipment
- Extraction honey
- Fall feeding

Position available from april 15, 2015 to september 30, 2015

Wages starting @ \$10.51 Per hr.

Contact name - Gerry Moyen ph.306-767-2440

Fax# 306-767-2626, Email resume @ germoyen@hotmail.com

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#### Help Wanted: Saskatoon Area (SK)

Seasonal Apiary Labourers wanted for Saskatoon apiary 10 miles east of Saskatoon. Commercial beekeeping queen rearing operations. Four full time seasonal positions (April through October) for the 2015 Season.

Duties will include spring feeding, hive maintenance, grafting, raising new queens, and nucs. Yard maintenance, superring hives, harvesting honey, extraction of honey, fall feeding, wrapping hives for winter.

Equipment repair and building. Driver's License an asset. Physical work requiring heavy lifting and working long hours. Wages \$10.30 to \$15.00 depending on experience. Apply to a.j.robertson@sasktel.net.

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#### Help Wanted: St. Andrews (MB)

One experienced Apiarist (NOC #8431) for up to six months, May - October, 2015. Must have at least high school graduation and beekeeping courses, a valid driver's license, at least 4 years experience in beekeeping. Hourly rate \$11.00 - \$14.00 depending on experience. Email applications, CV and references to margshoney@gmail.com

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#### Help Wanted: Tees, Alberta

Tees Bees Inc. requires general farm workers (harvest laborer NOC 8431) 2 required, experience is an asset but training is available, wage starting at 11.52/hr (or current wage according to NOC code).

Apiary workers (low skilled worker NOC 8431) 3 required with a minimum of 1 yr experience, wage starting at 12.63/hr (or current wage according to NOC code).

Apiary technician (skilled laborer NOC 8251) 3 required with a minimum of 2 yr experience, wage starting at 13.71/hr (or current wage according to NOC code). All positions are for the 2015 season. All wages are negotiable based on experience and productivity. A valid driver's licence and the ability to speak English is an asset. Must be physically fit and accustomed to working with honeybees. Email resumes to teesbeesinc@gmail.com.

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#### Help Wanted: Austin, Manitoba

One Position available for a full time, seasonal apiary labourer at New Rutherford Apiaries (4647204 Manitoba LTD) for the 2015 season April 1 - Oct 31 2014. Valid drivers licence and previous experience working with honeybees are an as-

set. Duties include helping with: honey harvesting/extraction, feeding/medicating hives, hive inspection, moving hives, building hive equipment, and clean-up. Hourly wage rate of \$11 - \$15/hour depending on experience. Some evening and weekend work required.

Send resume to: Mike Lewis, New Rutherford Apiaries LTD RR#1 Austin, MB R0H0C0.

email: mike-beehive@hotmail.com ph: (204)466-2551

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#### Help Wanted: Aylsham (SK)

4 Seasonal full time beekeepers at Aylsham, Sk.. Employment from April to October 2015. Wages starting at \$11.00 per hour based on experience and qualifications.

7 Seasonal full time apiary workers at Aylsham, Sk.. Employment from July to September 2014. Wages starting at \$10.25 per hour based on experience and qualifications.

Send resume to Valleau Apiaries Ltd by fax @ 306-862-3682 or email Dan at valleau.apiaries @ sasktel.net

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#### Help Wanted: MacGregor (MB)

Seasonal beekeepers - 3 apiary technicians & 7 apiary workers. March 1 to November 1, 2015. Valid driver's license an asset, previous experience working with honeybees a requirement. Wage range \$11.00-\$15.00 per hour depending on experience. Candidates must be willing to work days, evenings, weekends, and overtime in a fast paced, repetitive, and physically demanding environment. Duties may include: assessing hive health, feeding/medicating colonies, removal/extraction of honey, relocating colonies, collecting/cleaning pollen, building/repairing beehive equipment, and light maintenance on machinery/vehicles.

Contact: Nichol Honey Farm Ltd., Box 461, MacGregor, MB, R0H 0R0. Phone (204)-252-2770, fax (204)-252-2129 email: nicholhoney@yahoo.ca

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#### Help Wanted: North Battleford (SK)

Seasonal beekeepers/farm laborers required - May to October \*2015\*. Beekeeping experience an asset but willing to train enthusiastic people. Position(s) will require working with bees and extracting honey. All applicants must be physically fit, able to lift 50+ pounds. English speaking with drivers license preferred.

Wages to start at \$10.26/hr, up to \$17.00, based on experience.

Reply to: Cameron Brown Farmer Brown's Honey farmerbrownshoney@gmail.com

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#### Help Wanted: Langenburg (SK)

13 Seasonal Workers:

13 Apiary technicians to:

- Help with Spring check, hive assessment and manipulation.
- Help with pest and disease control.
- Help with grafting, making nucs, and raising Queens.
- Assemble equipment
- Help super hives
- Help harvest honey
- Help keep field production records
- Help maintain beeyards
- Help with Fall feeding, assessment and treatments.
- Help to wrap bees.

Positions available from April 15, 2015 to October 31st 2015. Work is physically demanding.

Wages \$10.07 - \$17.00 per hour depending on experience. Glory bee Honey, phone 306-743-5469 or email Dennis-Glennie@sasktel.net for more information.

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#### Help Wanted: Meadow Lake (SK)

Groot's Honey Farm Highway 55 West, Meadow Lake, SK Hiring for 2014 Seasonal Workers (April 01 - October 30, 2015)

Position: 3 Apiary Technicians (NOC 8253) \$13-\$14.00/hr depending on experience

Position: 4 Apiary Workers (NOC 8431) \$11-\$13.00/hr depending on experience

All applicants must be in a good physical condition.

\*Apiary Technician must have a minimum of 2 years experience

\*Some knowledge of Queen Rearing

\*Driver's License is an asset

\*The Apiary Workers must be able to work in the presence of honey bees and will assist with colony management and Honey extraction/processing

Essential Skills: Reading text, Writing, Oral Communica-

tion, Working with others, Problem Solving, Good in Decision Making, Job task planning and organizing  
Contact: Calvin Groot, Phone: 1-306-236-3041 1-306-236-6924. Email: calvingroot@xplornet.com  
Mailing address: P. O. Box 2077 Meadow Lake, SK, S9X 1Z4

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#### Help Wanted: Porcupine Plain (SK)

4 apiary workers. Full time, seasonal work. May-Oct 2015.

Spring/fall maintenance, building of equipment, superring, pulling honey, extracting honey, moving beehives, feeding bees. Inside and outside work.

Application to be made to: g.knudsen@xplornet.ca

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#### Help Wanted: Mission (BC)

Golden Ears Apiaries is seeking employees for the 2015 season. Apiary Technician (NOC 8253) 12 positions at \$14.00 hr. Apiary worker (NOC 8431) 3 positions at \$11.81/hr. Work starts in mid Feb, 2015 and ends late Oct. 2015. Some evening, night and weekend work, full time seasonal work. Applicants must be in good physical condition and be able to work in a team environment., speak English and or Spanish. Apiary Technician must have a min. of 2 years commercial beekeeping experience. They will handle feed and care for bees in a manner appropriate for the season. Assist in the production of queen cells, nucs, queens and or replacement colonies. Recognize, report and monitor hive health issues and apply appropriate cures/controls. May drive and maintain vehicles including large trucks and forklifts. Maintain bee yards. Operate and maintain other apiary related equipment. Keep field and or production records.

Apiary harvesters do not require experience. They will super hives, harvest honey, extract honey, clean honey extraction and storage equipment. Move barrels, prepare and fill them. Maintain hive equipment and bee yards.

All employees may have to work long hours. Most tasks are performed outdoors in all kinds of weather. Work is repetitive and physically demanding.

All applicants should submit a resume to: jeanmarcledorze@gmail.com or write to: Golden Ears Apiaries Inc. 33197 Ito Place, Mission, B.C. V2V-3W7

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#### Help Wanted: Shellbrook (SK).

Need 12 willing beekeeping workers for Apr.-Nov. 2015. Pay starts at \$11.35 with bonuses based on performance. Training is on the job. Accommodations provided on rental basis. Contact Murray: 306-747-3299 email: hanniganhoney@sasktel.net

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#### Help Wanted: Meadow Lake (SK)

3 Experience Beekeepers

Must have knowledge of Queen Rearing and hives operation must speak English and Driver's license an asset.

2 Helpers

Some knowledge of beekeeping, must speak English and Driver's license is an asset.

Groot's Honey Farm, Box 2077, Meadow Lake, Sk, S9X 1Z4  
Phone: 1 306- 236-6924 / email: calvingroot@xplornet.com

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#### Help Wanted: 3012352 Manitoba Ltd.

o/a Wendell Honey Box 1439 Roblin, MB. R0L 1P0. Reporting to work at Wendell Honey, one mile east of MacNutt, Saskatchewan. Transportation provided from there to various bee yards.

12 full-time seasonal positions available at Wendell Honey in 2015

- Apiary technician to
  - o help with Spring check, hive assessment and manipulation.
  - o help with pest and disease control.
  - o help with grafting, making nucs, and raising Queens.
- o assemble equipment
- o help super hives
- o help harvest honey
- o help keep field production records
- o help maintain beeyards
- o help with Fall feeding, assessment and treatments.
- o help to wrap bees.
- Positions available from April 13, 2015 to mid-October 2015
- Experience working with bees necessary
- Work is physically demanding.
- Wages \$15.00-\$19.00 per hour depending on experience with Wendell Honey
- Possible production bonus

email Isabel Wendell at [isy@wendell.ca](mailto:isy@wendell.ca) or fax 204 564 2568 or phone 204 937 7767

12 full-time seasonal positions available at Wendell Honey in 2015

- Apiary worker to
    - o assemble equipment
    - o help super hives
    - o help harvest honey
    - o help maintain beeyards
    - o help with Fall feeding
    - o help to wrap bees.
  - Positions available from May 18, 2015 to mid-October 2015
  - No experience required.
  - Work is physically demanding.
  - Wages \$11.50-\$15.00 per hour depending on experience with Wendell Honey
  - Possible production bonus
- email Isabel Wendell at [isy@wendell.ca](mailto:isy@wendell.ca) or fax 204 564 2568 or phone 204 937 7767

#### Help Wanted: Surrey (BC)

HONEYBEE CENTRE requires two (2) beekeepers for the 2015 season February 15 - October 15, 2015. Our company is situated in the centre of the Vancouver metropolis. Wages are \$13.00 for workers with three or more years experience. A driver's license is an asset. On-site accommodations are available at \$300 per month. Contact John Gibeau. [gibeau@honeybeecentre.com](mailto:gibeau@honeybeecentre.com). Visit our website at [www.honeybeecentre.com](http://www.honeybeecentre.com).

#### Help Wanted: Pleasant Valley (AB)

PLEASANT VALLEY requires General Farm Workers (Harvest Laborer): 3 required, experience is an asset but will be trained, wage starting at \$11.52/hr. Apiary workers (Low skill Worker): 7 required with a min. 1yr. experience, wage starting at \$12.63/hr. Apiary Technician (Skilled Worker): 4 required with a minimum 2yr. experience, wage starting at \$13.72/hr. All positions are to be filled for the 2015 Season. All wages are negotiable upon experience and productivity. A valid driver's licence is a benefit. Ability to speak English is an asset. Must be physically fit. Email resumes to [pollenpal@gmail.com](mailto:pollenpal@gmail.com) attn. to Pleasant Valley or fax to 403-687-2410

#### Help Wanted: Fort Macleod, Alberta

POELMAN APIARIES requires General Farm Workers (Harvest Laborer): 5 required, experience is an asset but will be trained, wage starting at \$11.52/hr. Apiary Workers (Low skill Worker): 14 required with a min. 1yr. experience, wage starting at \$12.63/hr. Apiary Technician (Skilled Worker): 6 required with a minimum 2yr. experience, wage starting at \$13.72/hr. All positions are to be filled for the 2015 Season. All wages are negotiable upon experience and productivity. A valid driver's licence is a benefit. Ability to speak English is an asset. Must be physically fit. Email resumes to [pollenpal@gmail.com](mailto:pollenpal@gmail.com) attn. to Poelman Apiaries or fax to 403-687-2410

#### Help Wanted: Rocanville (SK)

B Strong Apiaries Ltd.  
10 Positions available.  
6 Full time positions for 6 months, April to Oct. 2015  
Duties include: helping with checking hives, putting on mite treatments, unwrapping hives, making nucs installing queens and queen cells, putting on and taking off honey supers, putting bee equipment together and general bee yard maintenance. Fall work includes: putting on mite treatments, feeding and wrapping hives, moving nucs into wintering shed.  
4 Full time positions for 3 months, July to Sept. 2015  
Duties include: honey house maintenance and the extraction of honey. Outside jobs require heavy lifting.  
Both jobs require long hrs with occasional weekend and holiday work. The ability to work in heat and to work well with others is required. \$11.00 to \$17.30 hr based on experience.  
Contact Brian at [bdstrong@sasktel.net](mailto:bdstrong@sasktel.net) or fax 306-645-4591

#### Help Wanted: Nipawin (SK)

5 full-time seasonal Apiary technician and 10 Apiary workers for April to October 2015.  
Work is physically demanding, and includes hive management and maintenance.  
Wages \$10.50 to \$17.00, depending on experience.  
Contact Yves Garez- fax: 306-862-5974 or

email: [y.garez@sasktel.net](mailto:y.garez@sasktel.net)

#### Help Wanted: Shellbrook (SK).

Wanted 4 beekeepers for May to October 2015. Wages depending on experience. Contact Jason Rinas, Email: [jasonrinas@hotmail.com](mailto:jasonrinas@hotmail.com) or Phone: 306-747-7220 or 306-764-4303 or 306-747-3130.

#### Help Wanted- Meskanaw, (SK)

2 beekeepers helpers required. April to October 2015. Wages 10.00 - 13.00 hour depending on experience. Contact: Calvin Parsons 306-864-2632 email [parsonsfamily@sasktel.net](mailto:parsonsfamily@sasktel.net)

#### Help Wanted: Argyle (MB)

5 Full time seasonal apiarist 2015.  
Full time seasonal apiarist, wages are \$12 to \$15 per hr. depending on exp. job is physically demanding, must help with wrapping, feeding, making nucs, supering, pulling honey, honey extraction, medicating hives, and winter preparation. Please call Cal Grysiuk, ph./fax 204-831-7838, Email [acgrysiuk@shaw.ca](mailto:acgrysiuk@shaw.ca), or mail 83 Acheson Dr. Winnipeg, MB R2Y 2E8.

#### Help Wanted: Austin (MB)

Full time seasonal Apiarist Technician NOC 8431 and Apiarist Labourers NOC 8431.

Full time, seasonal Apiarist Technician, 1 position and Apiary Labourers, 3 positions, available at Busy Bee Apiaries, a honey farm near Rural Austin, MB, Road Lane #63074 for 2014 season. Apiarist Technician: April 15-Oct.31 2015. Duties: all apiary management like medicating, feeding, harvesting, extracting honey, maintenance, clean-up, other duties as assigned. Must have drivers licence \$12.55-15.00/hour based on qualifications. Apiary Labourers or Workers: 2 positions July 1-Sept30 2015. 1 position April 15-Oct 31 2015. Duties: supervised hive management, harvesting, extracting honey, clean-up, other duties as assigned \$10.70-12.50/hour based on experience.

Send resume to Busy Bee Apiaries Ltd. C/O: Chris Rempel, Box 358, Austin, MB., R0H 0C0, e-mail: [pilotman1977@gmail.com](mailto:pilotman1977@gmail.com)

#### Help Wanted: Kinistino, (SK)

Seasonal beekeepers:  
6 full time beekeeping positions for up to 8 months (April to Nov.) 2015. Familiar with beekeeping an asset but not required if willing to learn all aspect of beekeeping with training by employer. Starting wages will be \$ 10.27 with bonuses based on performances. Some week-end and evening work will be required during season for moving bees and bad weather during the week. Work is physically demanding and fast paced. E-mail resume to Bacon Apiaries at [rbacon@sasktel.net](mailto:rbacon@sasktel.net) or to [dbacon13@sasktel.net](mailto:dbacon13@sasktel.net) or fax resume to 306-864-2451.

#### Help Wanted: Vanderhoof (BC)

Sweet Nechako Honey  
Tentative year round full time position in 2015 season  
For experienced talented beekeeper individual , increasing efficiency of 300 hive base and markets.  
Queen rearing and experience with Youth With A Mission an asset.  
Need class 5 standard driving and physical strength. Start at \$21.00. certified suite available.  
Flexible scheduling, profit share or ownership options. Responses will only go to potential candidates.  
Contact Jon A. at [sweet02@telus.net](mailto:sweet02@telus.net)

#### Help Wanted: Good Spirit Lake (SK)

3 Seasonal Beekeeper Helpers (apiary workers) for the 2015 honey production season at Howland's Honeyfarm, Good Spirit Lake, SK. May to September 2015, \$10.50 to \$17.00 per hour depending on experience. A valid driver's license is a benefit and beekeeping experience an asset. Employees must have own transportation to the job site. Training available on the job. Work is physically demanding, and includes hive management/ maintenance, harvesting and extraction of honey. Long hours, week-end, and evening work may be required during the harvest period.  
Contact Danny or Sasha at Howland Enterprises Inc., phone 306-792-2044 fax 306-792-2064 or email [sasha@howlandshoney.com](mailto:sasha@howlandshoney.com) for more information.

#### Help Wanted: Nipawin (SK)

5 Beekeepers Wanted: Full time beekeeping help, April to October 2015. Beekeeping experience would be preferred. Wages start at \$10.27 per hour.  
Contact Mark Knox, [knoxapiaries@sasktel.net](mailto:knoxapiaries@sasktel.net) , 306-862-5657, Box 179 Nipawin, Sask. S0E 1E0.

#### Help Wanted: Big River (SK)

(4) Apiary Workers/Farm Workers Required  
Employer: West Cowan Apiaries, Box 425, Big River, SK. S0J 0E0  
Wage: \$10.20- \$13.00 per hour  
Length of Employment: March 30 - October 31, 2015. Education: GED 12-  
Experience: 1-2 years preferred but not necessary- training by owner is provided on a ongoing basis.  
Description: Work is physically demanding; must be able to lift and carry honey supers (80 lbs) to truck deck; hive management/maintenance; harvesting and extracting honey and assistance in the cattle operation maybe required and other assorted duties.  
Skills & Abilities:- Drive manual transmission vehicle  
Have a possess a valid driver's licence, and clean driver's abstract.  
Must have own vehicle to get back and forth to work.  
Contact: In person with resume and references; must provide a clean criminal record check; by mail to above address and contact us by phone to: (306) 469-4970 to set up an appointment time for an interview.

## Honey Bees and Supplies for Sale and Wanted

#### FOR SALE

\*BUSY BEE BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES - we sell beekeeping equipment, hive parts, tools, protective clothing, honey containers etc. - also candle making supplies, silicone moulds.  
We buy and sell beeswax. Located in eastern Ontario, we ship coast to coast.  
[www.busybeebeekeepingsupplies.ca](http://www.busybeebeekeepingsupplies.ca)

#### FOR SALE

Four-Frame Nucs - May and June 2015.  
Queen Cells - June and July (pick-up only)  
Mated Queens - July - September (Canada Post and pick-up available)  
Contact: Highlands Honey, Portland, Ontario. 613-272-2091 [highlandshoney@storm.ca](mailto:highlandshoney@storm.ca)

#### FOR SALE

100 winter wraps for single hives pallets, 50\$ each + 32 winter wraps for double hives pallets, 50\$ each. All wraps come with a R30 cushion, a R5 top cover, side walls, and the stretch cords. Only used a few winters, all in mint condition. For Sale: 600 used hive top feeders, from 7\$ to 12\$ depending on the models. Only serious inquiry.  
Call 1 204 248 2645 ask for Pierre

#### FOR SALE:

Ongoing Commercial Beekeeping Operation, Beaverlodge, AB  
Includes 3.7hectares(9.07acres), residence, bunk house, warehouse , trucks, forklifts etc.  
CFIA certified honey extracting plant has 60 frame Bentley extracting line, Amyotte wax spinner, Cowen auger, Alberta flail uncapper, air frame grabber, stainless honey sump, 3 stainless honey tanks - 24 barrel capacity.  
Forklifts: Toyota warehouse forklift and rough terrain forklift with trailer.  
Trucks: 2006 International 2 ton flat deck, diesel and 1995 Nissan flat deck, gas.  
Currently running 400 hives with lots of room for expansion. Contact: [zumwaltsm@gpnet.ca](mailto:zumwaltsm@gpnet.ca) Phone: 780 354-2624

#### FOR SALE:

120 FRAME Cook & Beals extractor , new reel last year, air ram frame loader, no uncapper, O.B.O. Irwin Harlton, Souris, Mb. 204 483 2382 evenings, cell 204 570 2867

#### FOR SALE:

3500 Western 7 5/8 Honey Supers, c/w Spacers and 9 economy frames each. Excellent and Inspected \$35.00 each. Will sell another 3500 in 2015 and 3000 in 2016. Ph: 306-862-5979 Email: y.garez@sasktel.net

#### Wanted:

Drawn Honey Bee Comb in standard sized supers. All equipment would have to be inspected & pass provincial regulations. Contact: Jack Hamilton, jack.hamilton@ns.sympatico.ca 902-844-2040 902-847-3150

#### B.C. Beekeeping Supplies

- bee suits, gloves, tools, smokers, extractors, frames and foundations, woodenware, honey containers and lots more. Affordable prices. We also buy propolis - bee pollen - beeswax . Port Coquitlam, B.C. www.bcbeekeepingsupplies.ca

#### BeeDry: Winter Hive Wrap

Canadian made for extreme Canadian winters!! "It is known fact that when cold and warm air collide condensation (moisture) will develop." BeeDry is a radiant foil insulation hive wrap, with a top cover insert, moisture control pillow. The pillow wicks away condensation (moisture) build up within the hive, trapping it in the pillow. Therefore bees won't get wet and freeze. BeeDry helps keep air at a constant temperature inside the hive by reflecting (97% of) the radiant heat of bees back to the cluster, at the same time reflecting (97%) outside temperatures away from the hive. BeeDry is reusable and instructions can be provided. Complete double brood BeeDry..... \$19.95 set Complete single brood BeeDry..... \$14.95 set Quantity discounts available upon request... Shipping additional www.debbesbees.ca

#### For Sale:

70 frame maxant extractor  
36 frame s.s jones extractor  
a older cowan uncapper with stand and table that hold about

50 frames  
200 shallow boxes with frames  
a stihl bee blower  
1" honey pump  
Dahlen Barkman 1 204 378 5351 or cell 1 204 378 0400  
Wes Barkman 1 204 378 2778 or cell 1 204 641 3690

#### For Sale:

2 frame stainless extractor \$280, Feedbee Supplement \$89 200kg sac, Queen rearing supplies, wholesale pricing for commercial beekeepers and discounts for bee clubs. Please visit: shop.dancingbeehoney.com or email tak@netscape.ca We get back to everyone the same day!

#### For Sale:

150 live hives for sale, each with insulated tops and mite screened bottom boards with pull-out trays 400 honey-supers all with drawn comb on plastic foundation frames. 200 feeder pales @ 2.5gallons  
50 mating nucs (plywood with sliding lids) - holds 4frames  
150 queen excluders  
Queens are our own selectively bred Manitoba Queens  
Address: Box 192, Anola MB, R0E 0A0  
Phone #: Home - 204-755-2250  
E-Mail: derrick@highspeedcrow.ca

#### Bee Supplies for Sale:

Bee Supplies - Silicon Moulds for Candles: Petawawa (ON)  
Over 18 years selling high quality silicon moulds for making beeswax candles. The moulds do not require lubrication. Easy to follow instructions included in \$5.00 catalogue. Cost of the catalogue is refunded on your first order. Contact: E. & R. Schmitt, 3468A Petawawa Blvd. Petawawa, ON K8H 1X3. Phone: Business 613-687-4335

#### Wanted to Buy:

Wanted - Raw Honey. Will buy raw honey, small or large amounts. Preference from

Southern BC region. 250-495-2234  
"Will pay top dollar"

#### For Sale:

Turn key farm, Grand Forks, B.C. 3 bedroom house, large certified honeyhouse, 2.6 acres, equipment for 500 hives, trucks, school bus route, town 5 Km. Flower Power Apiaries. 250-442-2933 or mdmclennan@gmail.com for details. One complete sale \$595,000.00.

#### Wanted - Round Comb Honey

Equipment: Milo (AB)  
Used Round Comb Honey Equipment. Supers, Frames, etc. Cobana/Ross Round Size. Best Price. We pick up. www.rossrounds.com  
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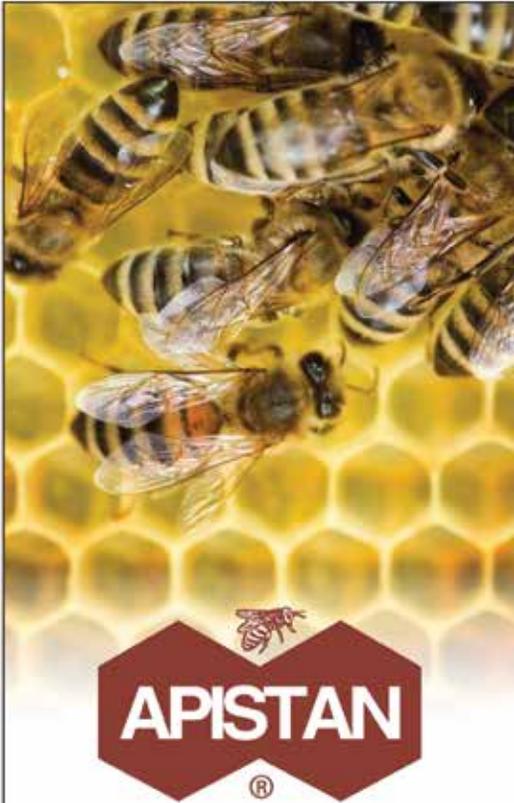
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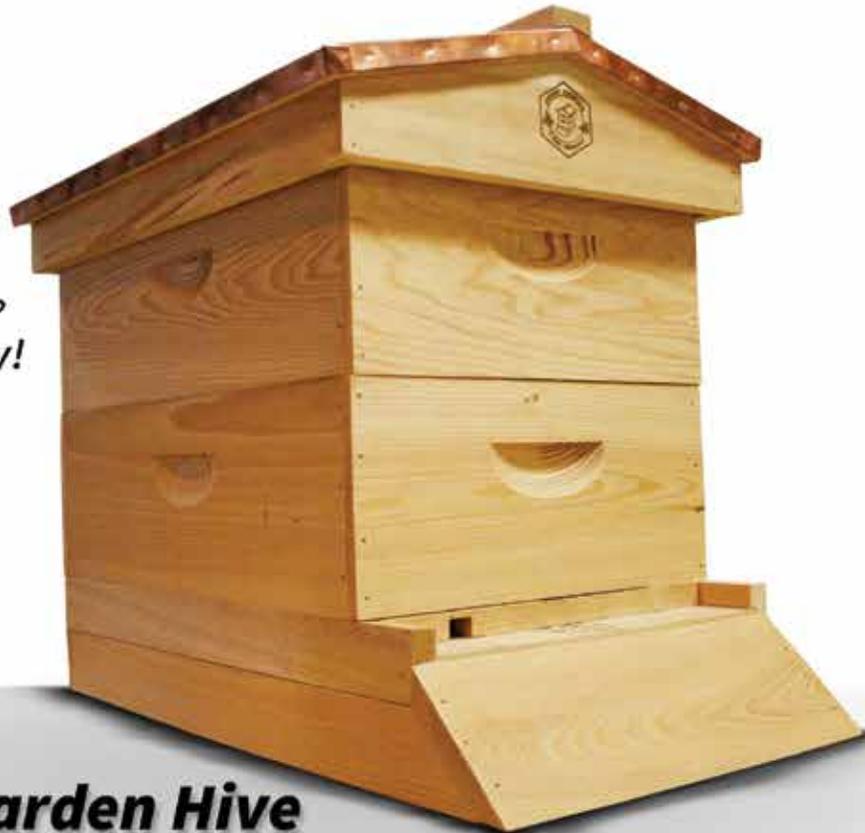
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